

**Introduced by Senators Figueroa, Aanestad, Alquist, Escutia,
Lowenthal, Romero, and Scott**

May 1, 2006

Senate Resolution No. 30—Relative to Educational Options Month.

1 WHEREAS, The State of California recognizes that, because
2 pupils learn in a variety of ways, the state’s educational system
3 must strive to meet the needs of its entire diverse pupil
4 population by supporting education options and the sustainability
5 of these option programs; and

6 WHEREAS, In 1975, Senate Bill 445 was enacted, declaring
7 the purpose of educational options and authorizing school
8 districts and county offices of education to establish and maintain
9 alternative schools and programs to, among other things, serve
10 at-risk youth; and

11 WHEREAS, Educational options include continuation high
12 schools, magnet programs, charter schools, independent study,
13 adult education, opportunity programs, community day schools,
14 pregnant minor programs, county community schools, juvenile
15 court schools, youth authority, and alternative schools,
16 representing over 750,000 pupils; and

17 WHEREAS, Educational options, as part of the state’s
18 educational system, maximize learning opportunities for pupils
19 who still need to pass the California High School Exit
20 Examination, or are deficient in credits, pregnant or parenting,
21 homeless, recovered dropouts, or in some other way classified “at
22 risk,” to develop the positive values and life skills, such as
23 self-reliance, initiative, resourcefulness, creativity, and
24 responsibility; and

1 WHEREAS, Educational options provide a choice of
2 educational pathways in an effort to confront educational and
3 social challenges, to meet the needs of all pupils that will ensure
4 them the opportunity to make appropriate postsecondary choices,
5 including higher education, technical and career training, and the
6 military; and

7 WHEREAS, There is a high level of professionalism and
8 specialized training required of a successful educational options
9 educator in order to provide academic and career instruction,
10 character development, and experiences that lead to successful
11 citizenship, employment, and higher education; and

12 WHEREAS, All educators and administrators providing
13 instruction to pupils participating in educational options
14 programs are committed to providing a supportive learning
15 environment that is best suited to every pupil's academic,
16 personal, and social needs; advocating for a quality education as
17 a means to inspire every pupil to become a self-motivated,
18 responsible learner; and

19 WHEREAS, Educational options programs and schools issue
20 diplomas to pupils and must fulfill the same state and federal
21 requirements as all traditional schools, including alignment to the
22 California state content standards, offering a rigorous curriculum
23 that includes all core academic subjects, as well as participate in
24 all state-mandated testing programs, such as the Standardized
25 Testing and Reporting Program and the California High School
26 Exit Examination, and are an alternative place to learn, not an
27 alternative to learning; now, therefore, be it

28 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California*, That the
29 Legislature hereby proclaims the month of May 2006 as
30 Educational Options Month; and be it further

31 *Resolved*, That the Legislature encourages all Californians to
32 work together to ensure the future success of every young pupil
33 participating in educational options in our state.